number of BPL families in Kerala is 15.54 lakhs. Foodgrain allocations under TPDS for these families are being made.

(c) No, Sir.

Expansion of foodgrains storage facility

†644. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken for expansion of foodgrains storage facility in the areas relating to shortage of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether some new godowns are being constructed for expansion of foodgrains storage system in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) the FCI has proposed to construct 4.04 lakhs MTs storage capacity in the country particularly in North East Region, Sikkim, J&K as well as other States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand etc., where storage capacity is inadequate.

In addition, under the Plan Scheme for construction of storage godowns Government is providing financial assistance to the State Governments of North East Region including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir for creation of 30,160 MTs storage capacity in the North East Region and Jammu & Kashmir.

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, priority will be accorded to creation of additional storage capacity in the North East Region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir by the State Governments with financial assistance from the Government under the Plan Scheme for construction of storage godowns.

Further, under the National Policy of Bulk Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains, a capacity of 5.5 lakh MTs is being created both in procuring and deficit States on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis.

In addition, full powers have been given to the FCI to hire additional storage capacity at the micro level/for meeting the emergent requirement, from the Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations/State Governments and private parties for storage of foodgrains.

(b) and (c) At present, no godown is being State of Uttarakhand.

Electronic weighing and measuring machine

†645. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new electronic weighing and measuring machines are being used in the matter of trade;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.